

Message

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Sent: 10/17/2018 7:37:35 PM
To: Cool, Richard [Cool.Richard@epa.gov]; Franklin, Richard [Franklin.Richard@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: WA Hydro Dams NPDES wkly update

Hi Rick and Richard,

Just an FYI that I'm sending weekly updates to management on the status of the permits, so if you want these, let me know. In addition to what's below, here are some key bullets:

1. We sent a request for draft 401 certification on our pre-draft permits on September 18, 19, and October 4, for the Lower Columbia, Lower Snake, and Grand Coulee Dams. If you want copies of the permits and draft FS, let me know. I know there will be some changes to these permits based on talking with the Corps, BOR, Ecology, and Colville Tribes.
2. Before going out for public comment, we want a draft 401 cert from Ecology and Colville Tribes (for Grand Coulee Dam). Ecology sent a letter last Friday indicating they would not meet a 30-day deadline and that the statute allows them 1 year to response. This is likely the biggest possible delay in issuing the permits. We are meeting with them next Wednesday, 10/24.

In the meanwhile, we are pushing along on these permits presuming that we will get draft 401 certs. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thanks! - Jenny

From: Wu, Jennifer
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2018 4:23 PM
To: Opalski, Dan <Opalski.Dan@epa.gov>; 'Lidgard, Michael' <Lidgard.Michael@epa.gov>; Soscia, Mary Lou <Soscia.Marylou@epa.gov>
Cc: Susan Poulosom <Poulosom.Susan@epa.gov>; Weber, Courtney <Weber.Courtney@epa.gov>; Merz, Martin <merz.martin@epa.gov>; Palmer, John <Palmer.John@epa.gov>
Subject: WA Hydro Dams NPDES wkly update

Here's the weekly update on the WA hydro dams NPDES updates:

This week my focus is finalizing all tribal consultation letters, finalizing the BE for internal review by this Friday COB, and providing updates to tribes and the Oil Spill team.

Lower Columbia and Lower Snake River Dams

1. Draft 401 certification communications – I spoke with Ellie Key, my contact at Ecology, who will be issuing the 401 certs for all nine dams. She indicated that Ecology would not be able to provide a draft 401 certification by October 18-19 (30 days after we sent the request) and expected to send a draft 401 certification mid-November. Ecology has a meeting with Columbia Riverkeeper on Oct 29. Maia Bellon will be attending.

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) | I spoke with ODEQ today who had questions on the 401(a)(2) certification process for them.

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2. Tribal Consultation Letters. All tribal consultation letters were sent last week to tribes interested in the Lower Columbia and Lower Snake River dams. This is a follow-up to emails in August 2018 and a presentation to tribes

on September 19, 2018. Tribes include Cowlitz, Grand Ronde, Warm Springs, Yakama, Nez Perce, and Umatilla. The tribal chair was incorrect for the Nez Perce Tribe, so a new letter is being prepared for Dan's signature. (Colville, Kalispel, and Spokane Tribes are in the Grand Coulee area.)

Grand Coulee

1. Draft 401 certification request to Colville Tribes and Ecology

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2. Supplementary outfall coverage - I received more information from Grand Coulee on specific outfalls that need coverage. I will make changes in the public draft.
3. 316b and BOR - I have a meeting with BOR and Grand Coulee next Wednesday to discuss permit details including 316(b) proposals. I received comments from EPA HQ this today on 316(b) and have another call tomorrow. EPA HQ has indicated to me that they are waiting to hear from OGC's briefing - no indications on timeline for responding on 316(b) applicability.
4. Tribal Consultation Letters. I drafted tribal consultation letters to the Spokane Tribe and Kalispel Tribe which are being prepared for Dan's signature.

Overall

1. ESA consultation - Martin has a great start on the BE components. He is working on data analysis and charts. I'm working on proposed actions and operations. Martin and I plan to finalize the species list this week and being on the BE with a proposed BE finished for internal review by October 12.
2. Internal communication - I will send an update this week to EPA oil spill/NPDES compliance team.
3. External communications - I've been talking externally on these permits with many entities to make sure everyone is informed. Here's a description of outreach with different groups:
 - a. Tribes - I will send an email to my contacts with updates on the status of the permits
 - b. Services - see above
 - c. Federal Caucus - Presented on September 18. Mary Lou has also talked extensively with above.
 - d. BOR - see above
 - e. US Army Corps - I have a call with the Corps on Thursday as part of our biweekly check-ins.
 - f. Columbia Riverkeeper - no communication last week
 - g. Ecology - see above
 - h. ODEQ - see above

Jenny Wu

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